

Burbank to Host Special Olympics Delegations from Botswana and Zimbabwe Prior to the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015 (LA2015)

Special Olympics athletes and coaches will visit Burbank to enjoy and learn about the town's culture before competing in 2015 World Games

BURBANK, Calif., (March 6, 2015) – Burbank announced today it will host Special Olympics Delegations (which include athletes and coaches) from Botswana and Zimbabwe as part of the Special Olympics World Games Host Town program. Before the World Games begin on July 25, 2015, more than 7,000 athletes from 177 countries will be welcomed to communities throughout Southern California. The two Delegations from Africa will spend July 21-24, 2015, in and around Burbank as they become acclimated to the time zone, enjoy activities that Burbank has to offer and prepare to compete at the World Games.

The Host Town program in Burbank is a collaboration between the City of Burbank, Woodbury University and the Burbank Chamber of Commerce. Together, they will welcome the Special Olympics athletes and coaches and provide the delegations food, housing and entertainment.

“The Host Town program gives each community an opportunity to showcase to the world what makes them special, but more importantly to provide citizens with a better understanding of intellectual disabilities that will lead to acceptance and inclusion for all,” said Patrick McClenahan, President and CEO of LA2015. “Long after the World Games are over, the memories of those three days spent at Host Town will leave a lasting legacy for Special Olympics Southern California and everyone who was touched by our athletes. We are thankful to all participating Host Towns and their tireless volunteers for opening their doors - and their hearts - to our athletes and coaches.”

“We look forward to being a Host Town and welcoming the Botswana and Zimbabwe delegates of the Special Olympics World Games LA2015 to Burbank,” said Burbank Mayor David Gordon. “I truly appreciate everyone that has pledged their support towards this event so far. I encourage the Burbank community to get involved in the special events that Burbank has to offer and to cheer on our delegates during the World Games.”

Woodbury University has generously offered to house the athletes in the campus dorms from Tuesday until Friday morning. In addition, the athletes will receive a unique opportunity to enjoy Burbank's attractions during their stay thanks to donations made by the Worthe Real Estate Group, The Walt Disney Company, Warner Bros., and more.

To learn more about how you can get involved with the Burbank Host Town program and to find more about the community events that will take place that week, please visit www.burbankca.gov/specialolympics.

The Host Town program has been an important element of Special Olympics World Games since 1995, and the experience has left a lasting impression on the local communities in Ireland, Japan, China, Greece, South Korea and the United States, all of which have previously organized Host Town programs as part of the Special Olympics World Games.

For more information on the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit LA2015.org and on social with #ReachUpLA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

About the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015

With 7,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches representing 177 countries, along with 30,000 volunteers and an anticipated 500,000 spectators, the 2015 Special Olympics World Games - being staged in Los Angeles July 25 - August 2, 2015 - will be the largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015, and the single biggest event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games. The 2015 Special Olympics World Games, with the unparalleled spirit, enthusiasm, teamwork, joy and displays of courage and skill that are hallmarks of all Special Olympics events, will feature 25 Olympic-style sports in venues throughout the Los Angeles region. The Opening Ceremony, to be held July 25, 2015 in the historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of the 1932 and 1984 Olympic Games, is expected to attract 80,000 spectators. On April 30, 2014, LA2015 and ESPN announced a global programming deal that will see ESPN bring coverage of World Games to millions of fans around the world. Honorary Chairs of the Games are President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and California Governor Jerry Brown serving as Honorary Hosts. LA2015, the Games Organizing Committee, is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information on the 2015 Special Olympics World Games, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.LA2015.org and on social with #ReachUpLA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).